

some Central American countries will run rampant under CAFTA's weak labor provisions. Countries will enjoy greater tariff benefits for goods made by workers whose rights have been denied.

Family farms in Central America will fall victim to CAFTA, which will threaten locally grown produce and undermine food security for Central Americans. Basic public goods and services, such as education, health care and water will become privatized, as governments will lose the flexibility to subsidize these services. Expensive brand-name drugs will have expanded patents, and inexpensive generic medicines will have greater restrictions. Poor people will not have access to life-saving pharmaceuticals.

Yet these concerns could not be fully considered or debated by lawmakers in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. CAFTA was brought up suddenly, in the wee hours of the morning, with no public notice, and many lawmakers did not get the chance to investigate what they were voting on. Is this how far-reaching legal reform bills should be considered? Of course not. And the real story of how CAFTA was pushed through the legislatures of Central American countries will undercut any legitimacy its ratification may have.

Please join me in welcoming the lawmakers who opposed CAFTA in their respective legislative assemblies when it was considered, and who have traveled here to continue to oppose CAFTA. Let me introduce: Diputada Doris Gutierrez, from Honduras; Diputado Victor Manuel Sales, from Guatemala; Diputado Hugo Martinez, from El Salvador; and Diputado Salvador Arias, from El Salvador.

MEMORIAL DAY AND HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day we will once again mark a day of remembrance for those who have died while serving our Nation. Memorial Day is a single day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. While we should remember their sacrifice every day, a special honor is reserved for Memorial Day.

More than a million American service members died in the wars and conflicts this Nation fought since the first colonial minutemen took up arms in 1775 to fight for independence. Each soldier who died during those many battles was a loved one cherished by family and friends. Each was a loss to the community and the Nation.

While this Nation can never fully repay those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, I believe the United States must continue to do more to honor our brave soldiers, veterans and our military families. Their sacrifices are the foundation of our Nation's freedom.

During my years in Congress, I have consistently given high priority to the interests of our country's veterans. I feel strongly that protecting veterans' rights and benefits is the least we can do for those who have devoted

years of their lives in service to our Nation. Only by providing the best possible resources and facilities and fully compensating veterans for disabilities, can we repay the dedication of service personnel who sacrificed for their country.

One area in which adequate funding is absolutely necessary for veterans is health care. The lack of sufficient resources in our VA hospitals has reduced the ability of medical professionals to provide quality care. Our budget should be a reflection of our national priorities and yet this year the House Leadership cut veterans healthcare by \$13.5 billion.

It is critical that we fulfill our moral obligation to honor our Nation's veterans with the health, education and retirement benefits they have earned through their service. I have joined my colleagues in introducing a new GI bill, endorsed by the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans, to improve benefits for men and women in uniform today and provide long overdue benefits for the veterans and military retirees who have already served. It will help members of the National Guard and Reserve, as their service in Iraq and Afghanistan has been above the call of duty, and will improve veterans' health care by increasing resources, bolstering mental health care for returning soldiers and blocking prescription drug co-payment increases.

So, on this Memorial Day, let us never forget that we in this country owe a great debt of gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives so that we could live free. We can start to pay that debt by remembering what they did and what they stood for, and by promoting policies that honor their service and reflect the values of our grateful Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MARLIN T. ROCKHOLD

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Army Private First Class Marlin T. Rockhold. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Private First Class Rockhold leaves behind the most important legacy any man can leave: a strong and healthy family who knows he loved them with all his heart. His love and commitment to his wife Davonna, and his desire to adopt and nurture their daughter Therashia is the best testament to his character and to his heart.

Private First Class Rockhold's joy for life and his commitment to the men and women he served with are remembered by his family, his friends, and his fellow soldiers. He used his incredible sense of humor and memorable smile to ease the worries, fears, and disappointments of those around him. His positive attitude will remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Army Private First Class Rockhold's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, Marines, sailors, and airmen.

Marlin, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

WEST PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL TAKES TOP HONORS IN TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION

CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Philadelphia High School for taking top honors in the Technology Competition at the National 2005 Tour de Sol.

The National 2005 Tour de Sol, a nationwide competition, allows students and entrepreneurs to showcase their efforts to design vehicles that approach zero carbon emissions and use renewable fuels. The Tour de Sol highlights the largest innovations in alternative-energy technology and advanced fuel vehicles, showcasing the future of the clean-energy and transportation industry. The cars are put through rigorous tests to assess emissions, fuel economy, and other technical standards.

The Tour de Sol provides a key platform for vehicle manufacturers, students, and entrepreneurs to demonstrate future designs and current products that aim to reduce oil and carbon emissions to zero. This year, over a dozen teams from all over the United States and Canada participated in the Tour de Sol Championship, which began in 1989. The competition aims to inspire students and businesses to design, build, showcase, and use concept vehicles that push the envelope and work toward the ultimate goal of the event.

The winner of the coveted "Greenest Vehicle" was awarded to one of the only high school teams to enter the competition, West Philadelphia High School, for their electric car called The Saturn. The team beat university and private teams from around the country for developing a vehicle that demonstrates high energy efficiency. The Saturn ran the equivalent of 280 miles per gallon of gasoline, with a greenhouse gas reduction of nearly 80 percent.

I salute the students, faculty and team sponsors who worked tirelessly over the past two years to construct a hybrid vehicle that uses biodiesel fuel instead of gas to create a cleaner environment. I applaud your efforts and congratulate you on a winning design that makes all Philadelphians proud.